

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-12 are currently pending in the subject application. By the instant amendment, claim 1 has been amended to more particularly recite the subject matter of the present invention, claim 4 has been clarified and claims 8 and 11 have been amended to change their dependency and provide proper antecedent basis. Claims 2-3 have been canceled. Claims 13-22 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 21 are independent.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement of applicant's claim for foreign priority and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

Applicant further appreciates the Examiner's acceptance of the drawings filed on October 17, 2003.

Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 16, 2004.

Claims 1 and 4-22 are presented to the Examiner for further or initial prosecution on the merits.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office action, dated May 26, 2005, the Examiner objected to claim 4, rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,323,908 to Lee et al. ("the Lee et al. reference"), and rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lee et al. reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,825,386 to Ohashi ("the Ohashi reference").

B. Asserted Objection of Claim 4

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner objected to the language regarding the coupling slot. Claim 4 has been amended in order to clarify the source of the frequency signal, as set forth, for example, in paragraph [0043] of the original specification. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

C. Asserted Anticipation Rejection

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Lee et al. reference. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that this amended claim 1 clearly defines the present invention over the Lee et al. reference.

Claim 1 now recites, in part, that the signal transmitting unit is electrically isolated from the cavity resonator, as can be seen, for example, in FIGS. 2A and 3A of the original specification. Such isolation is used to realize the RF coupling of the present invention. Such RF coupling allows an increased discharge rate, more precise ink regulation, a simplified structure and higher integration, as set forth, for example, in paragraph [0054] of the original specification.

In contrast, the print head of the Lee et al. reference relies on direct electrode coupling to a piezoelectric material. The Lee et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest the isolation as now recited in claim 1. Indeed, such isolation would render the print head in the Lee et al. reference inoperable. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 defines the present invention over the Lee et al reference.

The remaining rejected claims 2-11 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 1 is considered allowable.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

D. Asserted Obviousness Rejection

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lee et al. reference in view of the Ohashi reference. Claim 12 depends indirectly from claim 1, and the Ohashi reference fails to provide the teaching noted above as missing from the Lee et al. reference. Therefore, claim 12 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 1 is considered allowable. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

E. New Claims

Claims 13-20 have been added to recite additional details of the present invention. These claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 1 is considered allowable.

Claim 21 has been added to claim the RF transmission of the present invention in a different manner. It is respectfully submitted that the Lee et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest such RF transmission. Claim 22 depends from claim 21.

F. Conclusion

Since the cited prior art references neither anticipate nor render obvious the subject invention as presently claimed, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 4-22 are now in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

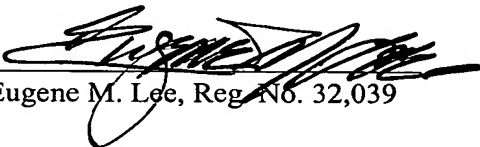
The remaining document cited by the Examiner was not relied on to reject the claims. Therefore, no comments concerning this document are considered necessary at the time

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.